

REPORT CARD OF THE SAN DIEGO REGION'S LIVABILITY

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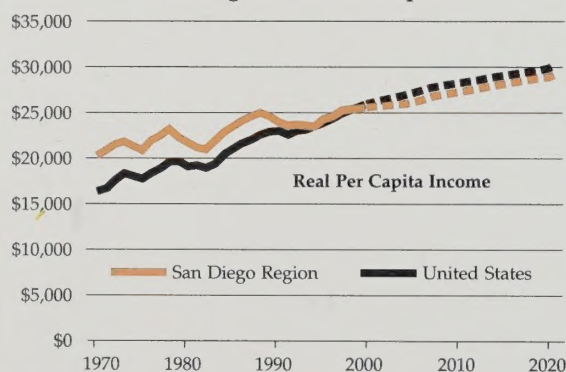
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



REPORT CARD OF THE SAN DIEGO REGION'S LIVABILITY

The San Diego region is a desirable place to live and work, but we face significant challenges. The region is expected to add more than 500,000 new jobs and the population is expected to increase by more than a million people by 2020. How do we handle this growth and still maintain our quality of life? The REGION2020 Strategy focuses on five interrelated and interdependent areas that are important to our region's quality of life: economic prosperity, transportation, housing, environment, and fiscal reform. SANDAG asked local residents and community officials to grade each of these areas in 1990 and 2000 to establish benchmarks for monitoring our progress in the future. The results are in and not surprisingly, San Diego residents assigned the region a variety of grades, ranging from a B+ in Economic Prosperity to a C in Environment to a D in Transportation. Generally the grades that people assigned tend to match up with our trends. In some areas, however, the grades reflected a poorer perception than the trends. We will use the grades as one measure for charting our progress. Annually, SANDAG will conduct surveys to determine how our residents assess the quality of life in our region.

Closing the Income Gap



Source: 2020 SANDAG Regionwide Forecast

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ENSURE A RISING STANDARD OF LIVING

The grades show that residents feel the economy has gone from satisfactory to good in the last 10 years. While the region is experiencing economic growth, more effort from the public and private sectors will provide the jobs and wages needed to sustain the region. Over the past three decades, the rate of growth in our region's standard of living has trailed the national trend. In 1970, local per capita income, was 23 percent higher than the nation. By 1994, the region's per capita income had declined to match the national level, and based on current trends will continue to fall behind. In 1998, SANDAG adopted the Regional Economic Prosperity Strategy. The Strategy recognized the basic restructuring of the region's economy, and recommended actions designed to create middle-income jobs and train our workforce for these jobs. These actions will help raise the standard of living for all of our residents and close the income gap between the nation and the region by 2020. Another challenge is to reduce the disparity between the rich and the poor, and improve economic opportunities for those in low-income levels.

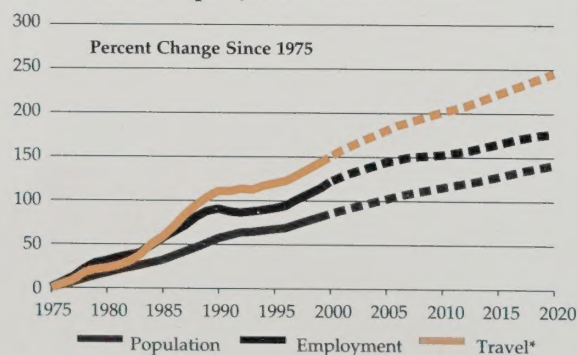
1990

C

2000

B+

More People, Jobs, and Miles Driven



Source: SANDAG 2020 Regional Transportation Plan

* Daily vehicle miles traveled

TRANSPORTATION

KEEP THE REGION ON THE MOVE

The dismal grade for transportation reflects the challenge for residents to move around the region during rush hours. SANDAG has adopted a comprehensive 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that provides the public policy blueprint for expanding and improving our transportation system. Since 1990, the miles of freeway traffic congestion and average commute times have increased. The RTP focuses on reducing highway traffic bottlenecks, providing alternatives to solo driving, increasing transit options for commuters, limiting urban sprawl, and accommodating increases in air passenger and cargo travel. Improving the jobs/housing balance and creating more pedestrian-friendly communities also is important to help residents travel more efficiently throughout the region.

1990

C

2000

D

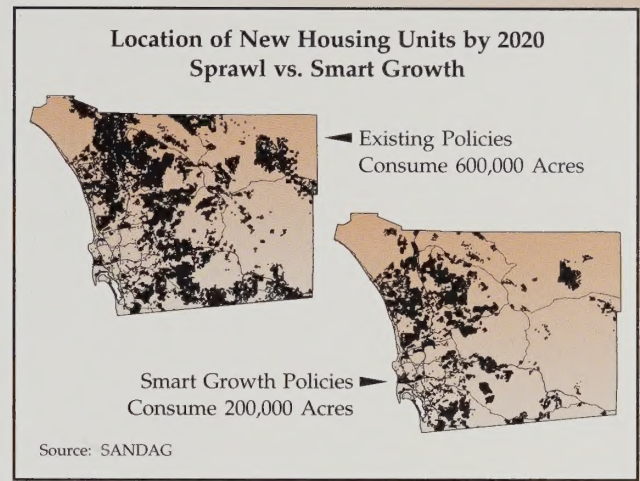
HOUSING

PROVIDE HOMES AND LOCATE THEM NEAR JOBS AND TRANSPORTATION

The housing situation in the region definitely needs improvement. REGION2020 recognizes that providing adequate and affordable housing is one of our region's greatest challenges. The costs of both buying and renting housing have increased rapidly over the past few years, outpacing increases in household income. Not only must we increase our housing supply, we must limit sprawl from 600,000 acres to 200,000 acres by focusing most of the growth in incorporated cities near transit stations and major bus corridors, in mixed-use cores, near employment centers, or in redevelopment or infill areas. Residents, policymakers, and developers must work together to focus construction of our new housing units in our urban areas, to provide adequate infrastructure, and to achieve a balance between housing, jobs, and transportation.

1990
C

2000
D+



ENVIRONMENT

PRESERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Residents feel that satisfactory progress is being made in protecting the environment. A significant part of our region's quality of life depends upon our environmental health. Over the last decade, we have made great strides in protecting our environment, preserving our natural resources, and acquiring habitat, but more work needs to be done. We must maintain a safe and adequate water supply and continue our efforts in water conservation, recycling, and groundwater recovery programs. We must ensure adequate infrastructure to keep our beaches, bays, and lagoons free from pollution and sewage. One area where we have made significant progress in the last decade is in improving our region's air quality. We must continue our efforts at reducing air pollution and maintaining good air quality. And, the conservation and efficient use of energy will play a very important role in our future if we are to maintain the amount and quality of desired services that energy facilitates.

1990
C+

2000
C

Air Quality
Days exceeding one-hour California Air Quality Standards

Station	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Chula Vista	4	7	1	10	2	4
El Cajon	11	17	8	7	14	3
Oceanside	2	5	4	6	3	0
SD - Overland	2	8	7	7	4	3
Del Mar	4	12	2	4	1	1
Escondido	10	12	12	5	9	1
Alpine	71	77	45	29	47	21
SD - 12 th Avenue	0	3	1	5	1	0
Camp Pendleton	*	*	*	6	9	1
Otay Mesa	9	17	6	10	0	1
Basin Total	79	96	51	43	54	27

* Monitoring at Camp Pendleton started in 1997.

Source: Air Pollution Control District

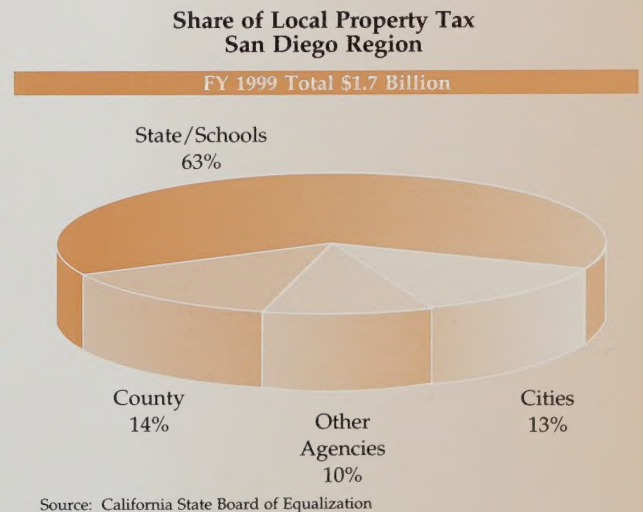
FISCAL REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT LOCAL REVENUES

Our region's tax system is barely making the grade. The current tax system between the State of California and its local governments is an impediment to sustainable communities. Between 1990 and 1998, the share of local property taxes returned to cities and counties throughout California decreased from 46 percent to 30 percent. In 1999, our region's cities and the county received only 27 percent of local property tax revenues. The unpredictability of budgets at the local level disrupts the ability of local governments to plan for and provide adequate infrastructure and public services. This system restricts the freedom of local governments to manage their own fiscal affairs and thereby destabilizes local governments. It also encourages jurisdictions to compete among themselves for the weakest contributors to economic prosperity - retail outlets - and in the process discourages home construction. A state constitutional amendment is essential for implementing a new system that protects local revenues.

1990
C-

2000
C-



IT TAKES A REGION!

As a region, we have work ahead of us to improve our quality of life as well as improve our standing with the region's residents. In some areas, small advances will yield great progress. In other areas, sweeping changes are necessary to reverse negative effects of the recession, sprawl, and inadequate infrastructure. The decisions we make and the actions we take must be bold and innovative to effectively link our economy, transportation, housing, environment, and local government revenues. The REGION2020 Strategy calls on residents, community leaders, educators, business people, and elected officials to come together to make changes in how we use our land and resources. It is an ambitious program that is well worth the effort.

MORE REGION2020 INFORMATION

Measuring the San Diego Region's Livability
Living in a Sustainable, Prosperous Region
Creating Prosperity for the San Diego Region
Opening the Road to Opportunity
Achieving Fiscal Reform in California

www.sandag.org/region2020/